Project CLEANS News

FALL 2023—ISSUE 14

Gunnar Remediation Project Update

The 2023 construction season began early in April to take advantage of the frozen ground conditions. This allowed equipment to complete excavation of the historic drainage channel and most of the construction before water started flowing. The channel construction and armouring were completed over the next months, as were the remaining radiation covers.

The non-hazardous waste landfill was substantially completed and a small section was left for future decommissioning of the camp. Remaining legacy debris around the site was collected and placed in this landfill.

In late July, the focus shifted to the Langley Bay Tailings scope of work, such as excavation of channels and preparing for the tailings cover.

The Gunnar Central Tailings channel was completed in 2023, and the Langley Bay Tailings channel is mostly complete with minor bedrock blasting required for completion.

Stockpiled material at Langley Bay Tailings (right)

Cover material was sourced locally and stockpiled near the Langley Bay Tailings for future installation of the cover system.

Tailings covers completed in previous years continue to perform as designed.

SRC completed surveys for gamma radiation across all covered areas at Gunnar and all results successfully met the desired criteria. Approximately 135,000 m^2 of completed cover areas were seeded in 2023. Overall, the vegetation seeded in previous years is performing well.

This winter, the Gunnar team will report on 2023 season activities and plan for the 2024 work season.

Successful revegetation shown on the completed tailings cover on the east waste rock pile (left)

HIGHLIGHTS

Community Meetings

SRC is currently in discussions with community leaders about meetings for January 2024. More information will be provided to the communities soon.

Watch our latest project update videos:
Leadership Tour: https://src.nu/summer23
English: https://src.nu/3Ok86D5
Dene: https://src.nu/3K3NX1m

If you have any questions about the project, please email us at cleans@src.sk.ca.

Aramark

If you are interested in camp employment opportunities for the Gunnar Other Site Aspects Remediation Project, please contact Shelagh Wager.

Email: wager-shelagh@aramark.ca

QMPoints

If you are interested in employment and supplier opportunities for the Gunnar Site Remediation Project, please contact QMPoints:

Fax: 1-306-652-4652
Email: apply@qmpoints.com
kyle.remus@qmenv.com
Website: www.qmpoints.com

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Lorado Mill Site

Remediation of the Former Lorado Mill Site was completed in 2016. Since then, SRC has monitored the site and performed maintenance as needed. The site continues to be stable and is revegetating as anticipated.

In 2023, imagery and digital elevation data were collected for surveying the tailings cover. Additionally, a geotechnical monitoring system was installed at the land bridge to ensure long-term stability of the site. Monitoring continues to support the eventual transfer of the remediated site to the Government of Saskatchewan's Institutional Control Program.

Satellite Sites

The Satellite Sites Project had an active field season in 2023, completing full remediation work at four mine sites: Don Henry, New Mylamaque, Pitch Ore-Augier Lake and Tena Claim. These sites were accessed by boat on Lake Athabasca (Tena Claim) and helicopter (Don Henry, New Mylamaque and Pitch Ore-Augier Lake).

At these sites, historical debris was removed and/or buried, the areas with elevated gamma radiation levels were mitigated and the hazardous underground mine workings at Tena Claim were collapsed and secured with a remediation perimeter fence.

Perimeter fence at Murmac Mine

For the mine openings, a stainless-steel grate was installed at New Mylamaque, stainless-steel caps were constructed at both Pitch Ore-Augier Lake and Don Henry, and backfills were used at Tena Claim.

Post-remediation gamma surveys were completed at these sites to verify that areas with elevated gamma radiation levels were mitigated.

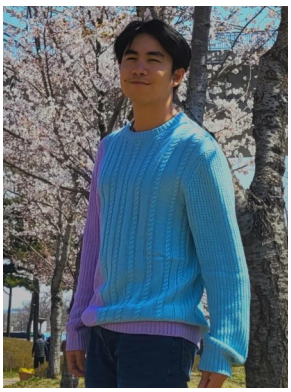
Other remediation work this field season included bird and vegetation surveys, archeological surveys, historical mine debris collection and water sample collection at multiple sites. Mine openings were backfilled at Murmac and Uranium Ridge Mines, and remediation perimeter fences were installed in areas containing hazardous underground mine workings at Murmac and Lorado Mines. The gamma soil covers constructed this year to mitigate areas with elevated gamma radiation levels at Uranium Ridge and Lorado Mines were also seeded with native plants.

SRC has completed remediation at 22 sites. The remaining 13 sites require varying levels of assessment. Transitional monitoring inspections were carried out this year at select sites and was completed this year for the Rix Adit No. 7 Mine. Several site inspections were conducted with the Ministry of Environment and Ya' thi Néné (a non-profit organization owned by the seven Athabasca Basin communities) to ensure the remediation work is stable.

Of the 22 completed sites, seven have received the Ministry of Environment's Release from Decommissioning and Reclamation, and four have been transferred to the provincial Institutional Control Program.

Remediation of soil gamma cover and backfill adit at Uranium Ridge

Meet Our Team



Argel is the Project Coordinator for SRC's Satellite Sites Project, which involves project management, coordinating contracts and other documents, and ensuring project activities meet environmental regulations. Prior to his current role, he was a GIS Technician and coordinated gamma radiation field surveys, specializing in database organization, spatial data processing and analysis, and other services. He is an environmental engineering graduate from the University of Saskatchewan and is currently registered as an Engineer-in-Training.

During his free time, Argel listens to a wide variety of music, plays the piano, works on improving his sketching skills, takes care of his collection of ferns and pothos plants and goes for walks in nice parks to look for sketching inspiration. He has lived in Canada for 11 years, and he was born and raised in the Philippines. As much as he loves the ocean, he enjoys working on a project that helps the environment and communities in northern Saskatchewan.

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